

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

between

the

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

the

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

the

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

and the

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

regarding

THE NATIONAL RECREATION LAKES PROGRAM

This Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is entered into by and among the United States Department of Agriculture, the United States Department of the Army, the United States Department of the Interior, and the Tennessee Valley Authority. Collectively, the parties to this MOA shall be referred to as Cooperators.

The Congress established and the President appointed the National Recreation Lakes Study Commission (Commission) to recommend actions to enhance recreation at the 1,782 Federally constructed manmade lakes (110 STAT. P.L. 104-333--Nov. 12, 1996, Sec. 1021). A primary recommendation of the Commission is to establish and adequately fund an interagency Federal Lakes Recreation Leadership Council (Council) to coordinate all of the Commission's recommendations. The formation of this Council is the cornerstone for implementing the recommendations in the Commission's report.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOA is to create the Council, to provide a forum for interagency cooperation in implementing the recommendations of the Commission. The Cooperators shall work together to achieve common goals. These goals include:

1. Increase the awareness of the social and economic values associated with lake recreation among the cooperating Federal agencies and other stakeholders who have an interest in recreation at Federal lakes.
2. Develop policies that provide an environment for success which emphasizes the role of recreation at Federal lakes.
3. Protect and manage recreation and other resources to optimize all resource benefits.
4. Promote a process that will involve local units of government and field managers in the planning, development and management of recreation uses at Federal lakes.

II. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In achieving the goals, the Cooperators will consider the following guiding principles:

1. Safeguard the health of the watersheds associated with Federal lakes;
2. Encourage the involvement of neighboring communities in planning the recreation needs and other uses of Federal lakes to help to diversify the economic base of the community and promote sustainable practices to protect resources;
3. Reaffirm Federal responsibilities to enhance recreation at Federal lakes while operating projects to optimize water use for all beneficial purposes;
4. Increase management flexibility and demonstrate support for management innovation; and,
5. Attract public and private support in providing for public outdoor recreation activities at Federal lakes.

III. A NATIONAL RECREATION LAKES PROGRAM

To achieve the goals, the Cooperators agree to plan and implement a comprehensive National Recreation Lakes Program (Program). This Program will be guided by the Council whose members consist of the Federal lake management agencies of the Cooperators. In addition to other agreed-upon objectives the Council will:

1. Apply to the National Partnership for Reinventing Government (NPR) for designation of the Program as a reinvention laboratory;
2. Develop criteria for those lakes that will be included in the Program;
3. Cooperate in establishing a formal advisory committee under the Federal Advisory Committee Act consisting of appropriate State, Tribal, and local governments, and private sector recreational interests to provide advice to the Council and its members on issues associated with the Council's activities;
4. Respond to Congressional requests for assistance in drafting any legislation deemed necessary and required, including new authorization and funding requirements, to best achieve the stated goals;
5. Promote collaboration across agencies to provide training opportunities, interagency development assignments, and regular lake manager meetings;
6. Promote the development and consistency of data collection at Federal lakes including scientific assessments of watershed and natural resource conditions, assessments of customer facility and infrastructure needs, and required schedules of maintenance;
7. Develop consistent guidance to encourage construction, operation and maintenance of needed commercial recreation facilities and other visitor amenities at Federal lakes;
8. Recognize and reward innovation and collaboration at Federal lakes;
9. Develop public information materials to identify the type and location of recreation facilities and programs at Federal lakes;
10. Promote cooperation and share new approaches from Federal and State managing agencies, Tribes, and the private sector to embrace a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship;
11. Develop training courses on business skills to close the recreation needs gap; and,
12. Support annual regional workshops with State, Tribal, local and private sector participants to seek feedback and assistance in achieving the Program goals.

IV. IN CONSIDERATION OF THE ABOVE, IT IS FURTHER AGREED BY THE COOPERATORS THAT:

1. This MOA is not a fiscal nor funds obligation document. Any endeavor involving the reimbursement or contribution of funds between the Cooperators to this MOA shall be in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures. Such endeavors shall be outlined in separate written agreements between parties and shall be independently authorized by statute.
2. The public interest shall be the primary consideration of the Cooperators in implementing this MOA.
3. In implementing this MOA each agency shall be operating under its own laws and regulations.
4. No member of or delegate to Congress shall benefit from this MOA either directly or indirectly.
5. Modifications to this MOA shall be made in writing and with the consent of the Cooperators and shall be signed and dated by the Cooperators.
6. Without affecting the rights and obligations of the other cooperators, any cooperator may terminate its involvement in the MOA by providing 30-days written notice to each of the other Cooperators.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this MOA as of the last date written below.

Secretary, Department of the Interior Date _____

Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Date _____

Secretary, Department of Agriculture Date _____

Executive Vice President, Tennessee Valley Authority Date

Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Indian Affairs Date

Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation Date

Director, National Park Service Date

Director, Fish and Wildlife Service Date

Director, Bureau of Land Management Date

Commander, US Army Corps of Engineers Date

Chief, US Forest Service Date
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